

Abstract

Speech issued by a speaker is collected by a microphone 1, and applied to a signal delay unit 3 and a sound level estimator 4 through an A/D converter 2. The sound level estimator 4 calculates a sound level estimation value based on the applied digital sound signal. The signal delay unit 3 applies the digital sound signal delayed by a predetermined sound level rising time period to a sound level adjuster 5. 10 The sound level adjuster 5 adjusts the sound level of the digital sound signal based on the sound level estimation value, and applies the adjusted sound level output to the speech recognition unit 6. The speech recognition unit 6 performs speech recognition in response to the applied 15 adjusted sound level output.